

# County Wetland Surveys An Overview

Wetlands, Community and Climate webinar

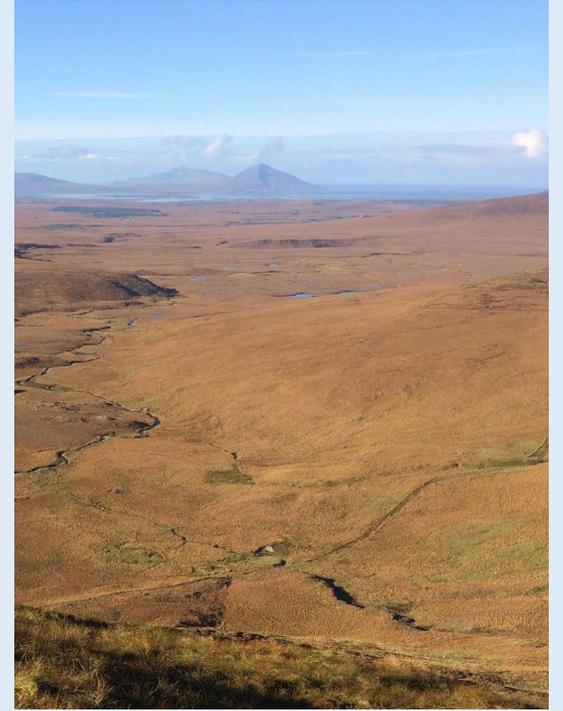
Deirdre Cunningham  
Heritage Officer, Mayo County Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

# County Wetland Surveys - An Overview

What are Wetlands?

Why are they important?

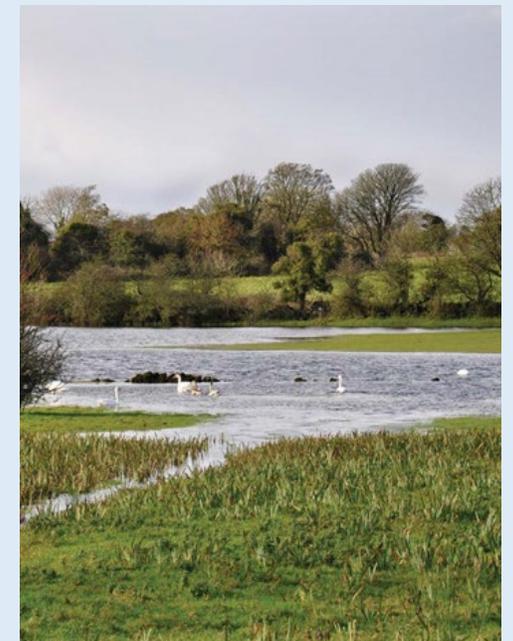
Why do a Wetland Survey?



# What is a wetland?

Wetland is a collective term for ecosystems whose formation has been dominated by water, and whose processes and characteristics are largely controlled by water.

- Freshwater, Marine and Brackish waters
- Permanent and temporary
- Natural and man-made



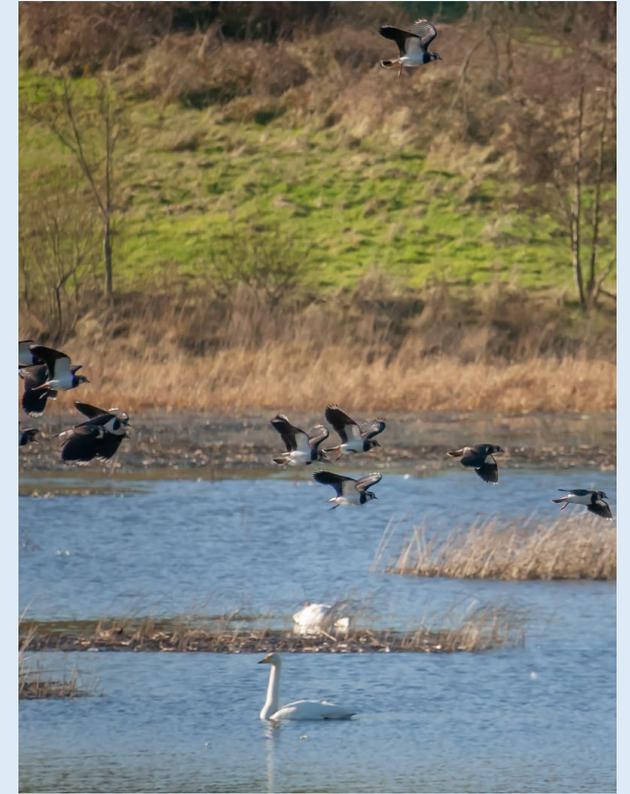


# Wetlands in Mayo

Mayo is renowned for its wetlands, which support many flora and fauna species of high conservation concern.

wetland habitats include

- Raised bogs
- Blanket (Atlantic or lowland & upland)
- Turloughs
- Fens
- Marshes
- Rivers and associated floodplains
- Lakes
- Springs
- Wet woodlands
- Coastal wetland habitats.



# Wetlands in Mayo

Owenduff Catchment

Ceide Fields

River Moy

Wild Nephin National Park



# Why should we value Wetlands?

Clean water

Flood regulation

Climate regulation (carbon storage)

Food

Fuel

Medicines

Recreational opportunities

Health and well being

Air quality regulation

Inspirational value

Educational opportunities

Culture and Heritage



# Wetlands Under Threat from

- Climate change
- Drainage
- Changes in land use
- Dumping
- Infilling
- Eutrophication (nutrient enrichment)
- Spread of invasive species



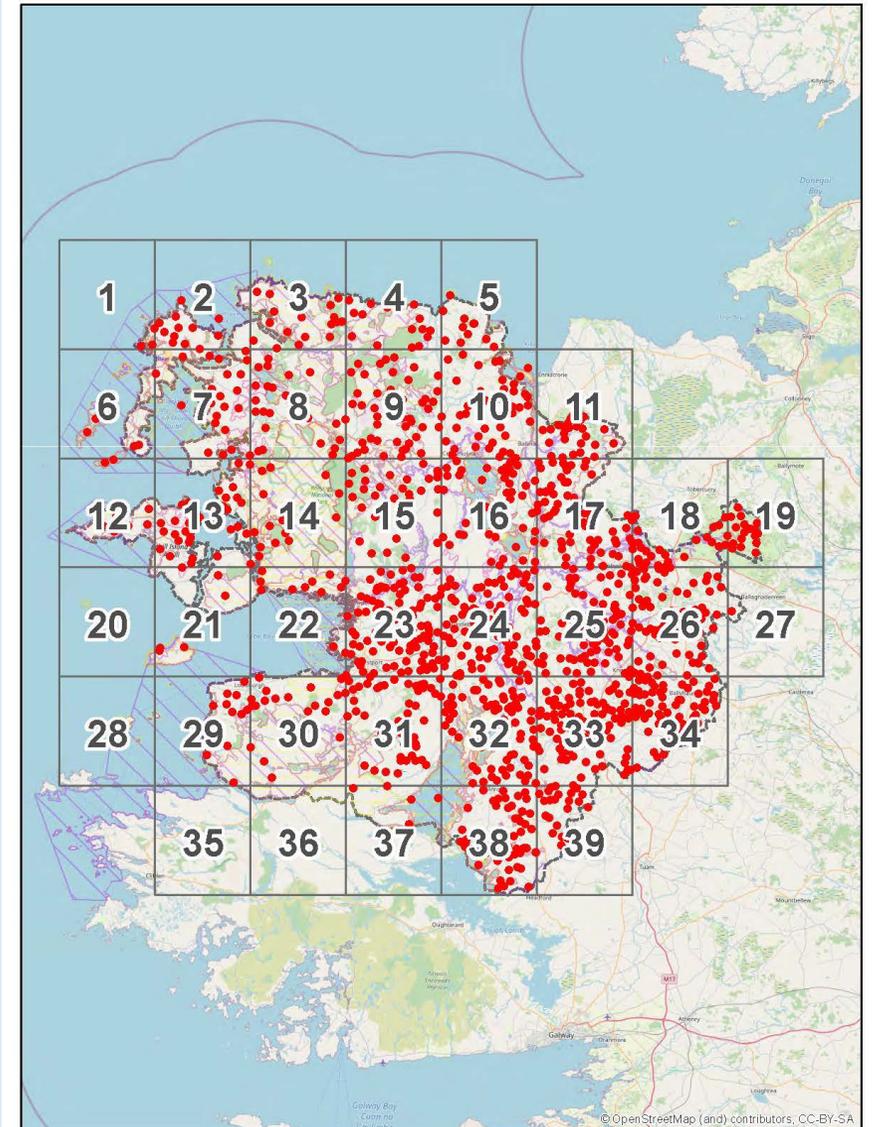
# County Wetland Surveys

## Aim of Surveys:

to collate and gather baseline information on the wetland resource at a county level



## Mayo Wetland Sites (MAWS 2021)



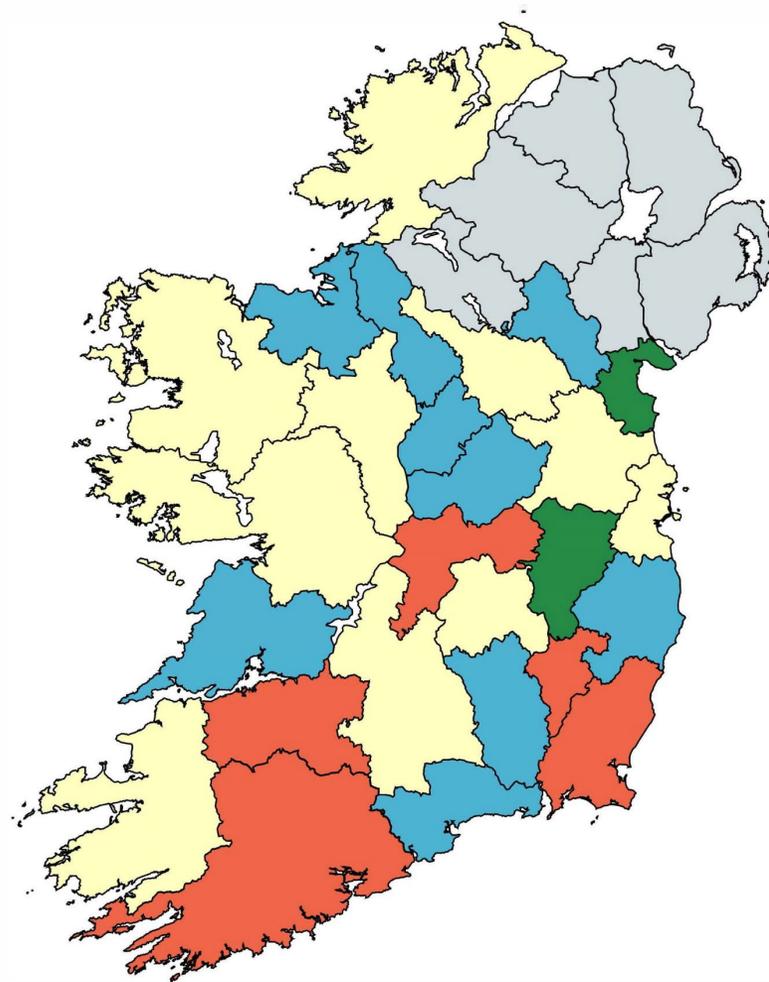
# Methodology

## Phase 1: Desktop Research and Survey

- Collate all available information
- The sub-soils map of Ireland used as a primary source in identifying areas of potential wetland within the county, along with aerial photographic and GIS datasets.
- ***Wetland site GIS and site database*** created. This dataset forms a preliminary inventory of the wetland resource in the county.

## Phase 2: Field Survey

- Sites selected for field survey, following standard habitat survey methodology.
- Site reports prepared for each site surveyed, including site description, records of flora and fauna, conservation ranking, identification of threats and specific management issues and recommendations



**County Wetland Survey Status  
January 2022**

- Phase I and Phase II (complete)
- Phase I (complete) and Phase II (ongoing)
- Phase I (complete)
- No survey (to date)

*Source: Dr. Peter Foss/Wetlands Survey Ireland*

# How is Wetland Survey Data Used?

- Baseline Data
- Evidence Base to Identify Sites of Importance and Local Biodiversity Areas
- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
- Inform Decision Making
- Inform Biodiversity Action Plans
- Planning Policy and Development Management
- Raise Awareness of Wetlands
- Conservation
- Educational Resource



# StoryMaps

## Wetlands of North East Galway

A story map introducing the main wetland habitats that occur in North East Galway



To view the StoryMap see:  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdhe4fjk>

Created by Wetland Surveys Ireland Ltd. on behalf of Galway County Council.  
Funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Galway County Council & Local Authority Waters Programme.



## Wetlands to visit in County Mayo

With over 1,000 wetland sites in County Mayo there are lots of different sites to visit, but here is a small selection to give you some inspiration!

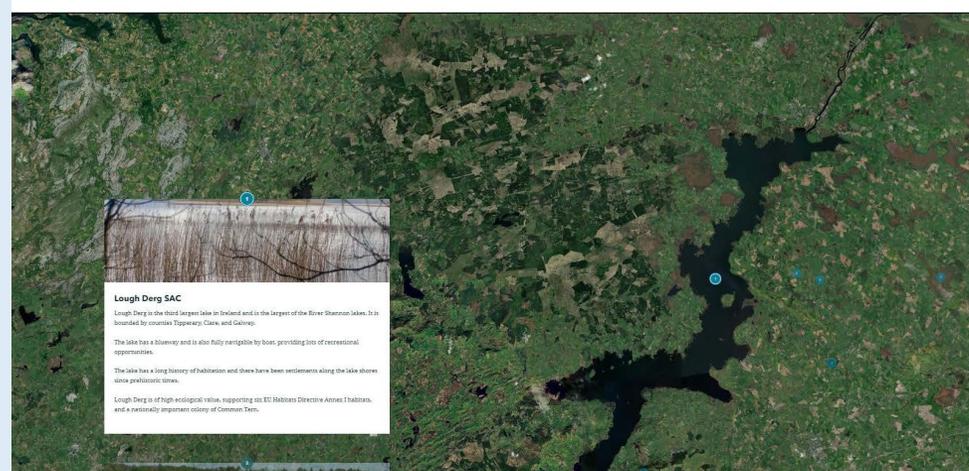


- Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park**  
This National Park is located in north west Mayo and was established in 1996. It comprises over 15,000 hectares of...
- Eskeragh Bog LIFE Site**  
Eskeragh Bog is located just south of the main Ballina to Belmullet road, approximately 10 km west of Croombulbin...
- Drumleen Lough Loop Walk**  
This lake, located on the R312 near Torrinish, is a designated Natural Heritage Area, Drumleen Lake wet...
- Silver Strand and Uggooly Beach**  
The area around Doogahy and Thullabaun in south west Mayo at the mouth of Killybeg Harbour and bordered by...
- Mulranny - Clew Bay**  
The coastal wetlands at Mulranny village, located at the north-western end of Clew Bay was accessed via a causeway...

storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/856e063f6cb4fc1952951770303a0b3

all information in Ireland in County Tipperary

Now that we know a little bit more about some of the wetland habitats in County Tipperary, let have a look at where in the county you can find them!



### Lough Derg SAC

Lough Derg is the third largest lake in Ireland and is the largest of the River Shannon lakes. It is bounded by counties Tipperary, Clare, and Galway.

The lake has a blowway and is also fully navigable by boat, providing lots of recreational opportunities.

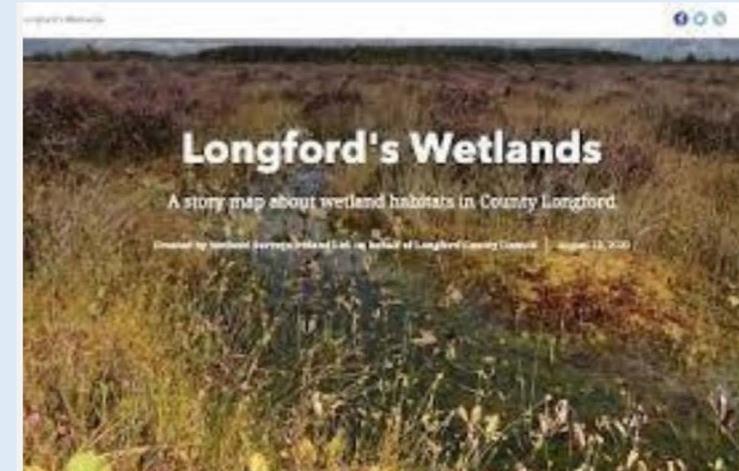
The lake has a long history of habitation and there have been settlements along the lake shores since prehistoric times.

Lough Derg is of high ecological value, supporting six RBD Habitats Directive Annex I habitats, and a nationally important colony of Common Tern.

## Longford's Wetlands

A story map about wetland habitats in County Longford

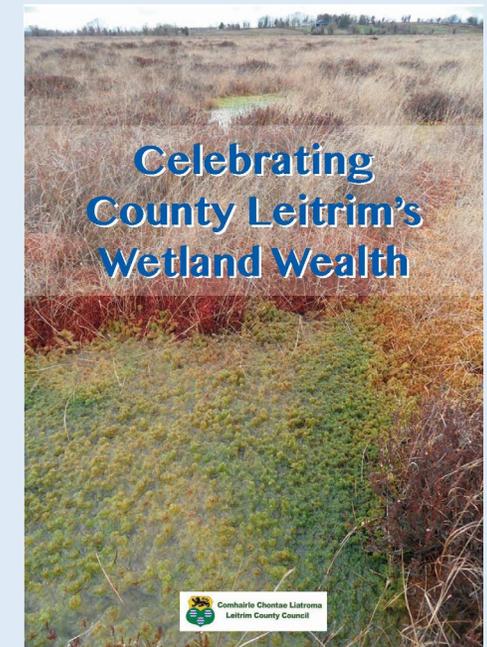
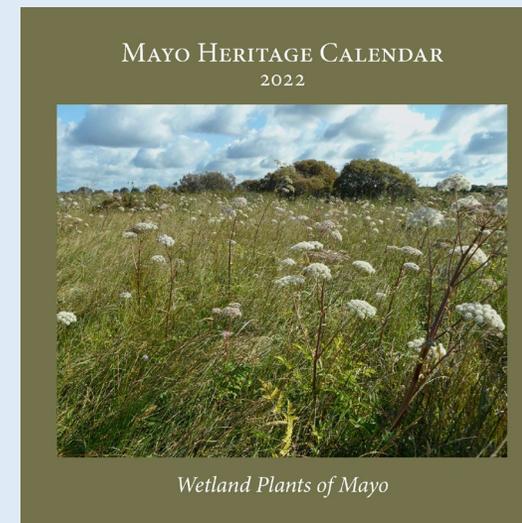
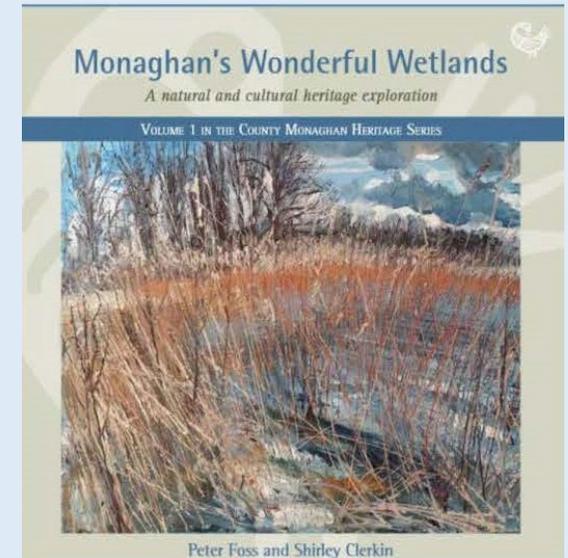
Created by Wetland Surveys Ireland Ltd. on behalf of Longford County Council | August 13, 2020



# County Wetland Information Publications

featuring a range of information about

- wetlands found in the county
- where to explore wetlands in your county
- how you can help your county's wetlands



# Thanks to..



- The Heritage Council, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (NPWS), for co-funding the surveys with the local authorities
- Ecologists and GIS specialists who have undertaken the work on the surveys to date
- Local Authority colleagues

Useful Resources:

<http://www.wetlandssurveysireland.com/wetlands/map-of-irish-wetlands--/>

<https://wetland.maps.arcgis.com/>

[www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

Presentation images courtesy of Peter Foss & Fáilte Ireland